

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1425 without my signature.

Instead, I am signing Senate Bill 1298 (Simitian), which takes the first step in specifically addressing my goal of making all existing education data more accessible in a user-friendly format to parents, policy makers, researchers and the general public without being filtered through unnecessary bureaucratic obstacles.

This measure is premature. California must more closely examine the ability of the state to collect, transfer, and use pupil record information and the interactions between state and federal law before developing a final plan for the interaction of multiple data systems at the state and local level and developing rules to govern access to the data they hold. It would be unwise to move forward without the benefit of this analysis. With incomplete information California may initially move in a direction which later would require a costly course correction in order to achieve the functionality we ultimately hope to achieve, while responsibly protecting student and family privacy and ensuring against identity theft.

My goal is for California to eventually have a comprehensive education data system that is useful, transparent, and easily accessible for parents, teachers, administrators, and policymakers that is not mired in the bureaucratic structures that currently exist. I would sign a bill that provides for an unambiguous thoughtful structure for state and local data sharing and the administrative oversight and management of education data systems while also providing explicit privacy protections in the statute.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger